

PEN PARK EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER



ADMINISTRATOR'S CORNER

By David Morrow

I read a good article on what makes a leader and thought some of the ideas were worth sharing, since we are all called upon to provide leadership to our friends, neighbors and associates.

The qualities that constitute leadership are reportedly linked with your own self-worth. For example, a leader is willing to assess a situation and trust in their ability to act. The trust in ones ability to act comes from the knowledge and experience gained from knowing your job, your responsibility and the rules of engagement. The trust to act comes from more than a gut-level reaction, it comes from being prepared and knowing what is expected of you. Additionally, the leader develops trust in other people. A good leader knows how to recognize innate abilities in the people around them. Further, they encourage and nourish those abilities in others by allowing those under their authority to take on tasks that will exercise their talent and potential. A good leader then stays involved in the task or assigned project by checking on the progress, providing input and advice and accurately evaluating the outcome. In state government, we often find ourselves overregulated, but a good leader knows and understands the policy and procedures and finds the most effective way to work within them. Another great attribute of a leader is the ability to know what is going on around them and empathy for those around them. A leader needs to be fair and even-handed, willing to treat everyone the same and to evaluate all sides of an issue.



Good leadership makes the difference in an organization meeting its objectives and providing the desired service to its customers. A good leader can provide calm in the midst of crisis and convey a feeling that somehow, some way, everything will be o.k. I find this one of the most difficult aspects of leadership; I typically focus on the obstacles rather than the opportunities. Another skill of a good leader is the ability to focus and see the big picture. E-mail, phone calls and brush fires often interfere with our focus and take us away for more important priorities.

We have a good organization, worthwhile causes and a considerable amount of talent. We all need to work on our

leadership skills if we are going to surpass our past achievements. We all need to understand the policies, rules and procedures. We need to share our knowledge, mentor our associates, recognize individual and group potential and, perhaps most of all, accept responsibility for the success or failure of our programs.

OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE

By Allen Newberry

Traveling the state, we get to visit some interesting places and meet with a variety of people sharing a wide range of opinions. Once in a great while you come across someone or some information so great that it needs to be shared. I found the following in Elko and it was so good that I wanted to pass it along to all of you who read our employee newsletter.

BEST DAY OF MY LIFE

Today, when I awoke,
I suddenly realized this is the best day of my life, ever!
There were times when I wondered if I would make it to today;
But I did! And because I did I'm going to celebrate!
Today, I am going to celebrate what an unbelievable life
I have had so far; the accomplishments, the many blessings,
And yes, even the hardships because they have served to make
me stronger.

I will go through this day with my head held high,
and a happy heart.
I will marvel at God's seemingly simple gifts;
the morning dew,
The sun, the clouds, the rain, the trees, the flowers, the birds.

Today, none of these miraculous creations will escape my notice.

Today, I will share my excitement for life with other people.
I'll make someone smile. I'll go out of my way to perform an Act of kindness for someone I don't even know.

Today, I'll give a sincere compliment to someone who seems down.

I'll tell a child how special a child is, and I'll tell someone I love just how

Deeply I care for them and how much they mean to me.



OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE (Cont.)

Today is the day I quit worrying about what I don't have
 And be grateful for all the wonderful things I have already
 been given.
 I'll remember that to worry is to just a waste of time
 Because my faith in the Divine Plan ensures everything will
 be just fine.
 And tonight, before I go to bed, I'll go outside and raise my
 eyes to the heavens and stand in awe at the beauty
 of the stars and the moon.

As the day ends, I will lay my
 head down on my pillow and be
 thankful for the best day of my
 life.
 And I will sleep the sleep of a
 contented child,
 excited with expectations,
 because I know tomorrow can and will be another best day of
 my life,
 because I am going to make it so!
 Remember, if one of your goals in life is to be happy, reread
 this piece every day.
 And joyfully watch how your outlook changes.



Regardless of your beliefs or thoughts, it is always a good idea
 to look on the sunny side of life and to think positive. Even
 on a rainy day you can anticipate the rainbow and look for
 change.

The budgets are in and we seem to make daily adjustments to
 fit within the "recommended" budget. Hopefully, many of our
 needs will be recognized and we can move forward with
 programs and opportunities in parks. We appreciate
 everyone's support in putting the budget together and for your
 comments on the field tours. Fall is here in Carson and we are
 enjoying both the change in color and the cooler temperatures.
 Onward and upward!

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT (P&D)

By Steve Weaver

The Planning & Development Section is working feverishly
 on a multitude of currently active projects. Our latest staff
 additions, **Ned Wallace** and **Tom Tabacco**, have both hit the
 deck running and are doing a commendable job managing
 their originally assigned projects and taking on new ones as
 various emergencies and semi-emergencies arise.

Ned is in charge of the Lahontan North Shore Marina dock
 replacement project, which is currently being fabricated.
 Needed modifications to the ramp to accommodate the new
 dock will have to wait for a low water year. In conjunction
 with **Bob Martin**, who is serving as project manager, **Ned** has
 played a crucial role in reviewing consultant plans for the Big
 Bend Campground, Paving and Fee Booth projects, making a
 number of cost-saving recommendations. Construction is
 scheduled for this coming winter/spring. **Ned** is also working
 with **Bob** to engineer Fort Churchill's Buckland Station Day
 Use Area Development, which has primarily evolved into a
 fire suppression system for the newly restored Buckland
 Station.

Tom Tabacco is serving as the project manager for several
 current projects. He is nearly ready to order campground
 shade ramadas for both South Fork and Washoe Lake, and will
 supervise their installation this spring. He is also responsible
 for the Sand Harbor Maintenance Shop Renovations project,
 which will be underway this spring, and the Washoe Lake
 Maintenance Storage Shed construction, which will hopefully
 get underway by next summer, after **Marc Lepire** is able to
 complete the plans. **Tom** has also recently been assigned the
 Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort adobe repair project, which is to
 be funded with fee overage funds; **Bob Beck** is providing
 assistance for the adobe project.

The final inspection took place this past month for the
 Belmont Courthouse structural stabilization and seismic
 retrofit project, which was managed by **Marc Lepire**. On
 November 28, **Marc** will be opening bids for Tahoe's new
 Visitor Center Snack Bar/Park Store Concession, which
 should be ready for open in early spring. **Marc** has also been
 working diligently to get the Dangberg Ranch Stabilization/
 Restoration project ready to bid, hopefully before the end of
 the year. New roofs are already under construction for six of
 the main historic structures at the Ranch. **Tom Tabacco** is
 supervising the construction. **Marc** is now working on the
 Valley of Fire & Big Bend Residences, with completion
 scheduled for late spring/early summer. Meanwhile, he has a
 consultant team working on plans for the Valley of Fire
 Visitor Center Expansion and Spring Mountain Ranch Visitor
 Center Renovation projects.

Bob Martin, Supervising Landscape Architect, has recently
 overseen the successful completion of interpretive exhibit
 installation at Fort Churchill's Buckland Station, which was
 finished in mid-November. The new exhibits look great. We
 hope to open them to the public sometime next spring or
 summer, after the fire sprinkler system is operable. At the
 same time, **Bob** has been supervising installation of five new
 SST restroom units at Lahontan, including a double flush unit
 at the Lahontan Dam Overlook and two more at Rye Patch.
 The Tahoe Backcountry units would have already been set in
 place, except delivery was too late for the higher
 elevations...winter has already set in. These will now have to
 wait for next summer before they can be installed. Other SST
 units have been ordered for Ft. Churchill's Group Area,
 Fisherman's Point and the White Flats Fishing Access at
 South Fork, and a third one for the Rye Patch's Lower
 Campground. **Bob** will be ordering seven additional
 SST units for Valley of Fire in the near future.
Bob is also assisting with the Valley of Fire
 Campground project.

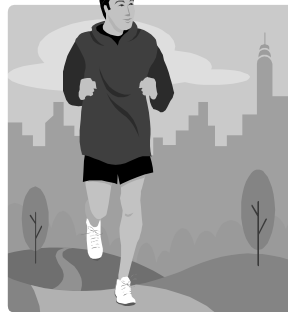


RECREATIONAL TRAILS

By Cheryl Surface

I just returned from the National Trails Symposium, held this year in Iowa. The new buzzword amongst the trail folks is "active prescription," where local physicians would prescribe recreational activities for their patients. The physician would select a local trail they would prescribe for their patients to walk, bike, run or hike for so many minutes, a certain number of times per week. For the first

time ever, this generation will **NOT** live as long as their parents and life expectancy rates will plummet. Recreation **CAN** and **MUST** be a component for turning this alarming statistic around. State Parks has the opportunity to market our recreational sites in such a way, that families will become active recreational enthusiasts.



The other topic of much discussion was designing and constructing sustainable trails. Nearly 50% of Recreational Trails Program funding is utilized for trail maintenance, including two grants that were funded in 2006 for statewide park trails, within our own system. If you have a potential park trail project, please notify me, before doing actual trail construction. The planning and design components are critical for sustainable trail construction. I would be happy to assist you in building quality trails throughout Nevada's State Park system.

NEW DIVISION EMPLOYEES

By Alyce Cloutier



We welcome **Peter Maholland**, who replaced **Jay Howard** as the State Parks' representative on the Nevada Tahoe Resource Team. This is Peter's first job with the State. He comes to us from his position as the Wildlife Enhancement Program Coordinator for the

California Tahoe Conservancy. Prior to that, he was the Forest Habitat Enhancement Program Coordinator for the same agency. He will be responsible for implementing Environmental Improvement Programs (EIP) related to recreation projects within Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park.

WELCOME

HALLOWEEN PARTY/CONTEST

By Alyce Cloutier



Pictured below from left to right are: **Kim Copeland** (pirate), **Jenny Scanland** (wizard), **Ned Wallace** (hockey referee), **Cheryl Surface** (medic), **Anke Simpson** (devil egg), **Dena Fitzgerald** (cheerleader) and **Alyce Cloutier** (modern witch). Read about others not pictured and the costume contest winner on the last page.

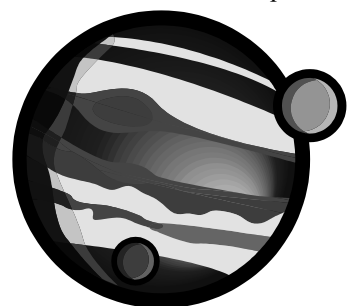
CARSON REGIONDAYTON AND WASHOE LAKE STATE PARK

By Teri Ozawa & Donna Silva

Another season ends in a spectacular blaze of color at both Washoe Lake and Dayton. Warm days and cool nights make the perfect conditions for the brightest colors fall can bring. Wild rose, cottonwood, sumac, scarlet oak and maples painted parks in red, orange, burgundy, gold, chartreuse and yellow. Sunlight showing through the sumacs made them look like stained glass. The aspens along Deadman's Creek Trail at Washoe have recovered from the huge 1999 Sutro Fire and are beautiful once again.

Both parks had great seasons and offered a number of late summer/early autumn interpretive programs. On August 19, Washoe offered a Dutch Oven Cooking and Sampling program, which drew a large crowd. Together visitors and rangers cooked several dishes such as chicken and rice, scalloped potatoes, cobblers, beef enchiladas and more. A very special thank you goes to Allen Newberry for assisting us with this program.

On August 26, the annual Stargaze Party at Washoe drew the largest crowd ever for this event. Astronomers from the National Astronomical Society and Reno Astronomers set up several large telescopes at different stations. A clear dark night gave us optimum viewing conditions. Highlights included Jupiter with four clearly visible moons, several messier bodies (globular star clusters), nebulae, meteors and manmade satellites.



CARSON REGION

DAYTON & WASHOE LAKE STATE PARK (Cont.)

Our Public Lands Work Day at Washoe was held on September 23, one week earlier than the national workday this year. Volunteers and rangers worked on park clean-up in the main day use area, equestrian area and Deadman's Creek Trail. Forestry, Wildlife and State Parks set up informational booths. Lunch was provided by Wild Oats Market.

On October 21, we held a Halloween themed fall crafts "spooktacular." Attendees could make Halloween crafts including masks, necklaces, spiders, witches, Thanksgiving wreaths and more. Other activities included haunted nature trails, a pumpkin raffle, games, activities and refreshments. Over 150 people attended the program.

We want to give special thanks to Nevada State Parks Cooperative Association (NSPCA) for helping us make these programs possible. Until next time, it's time to settle in for a cold winter's nap (just kidding!).

LAKE TAHOE NEVADA STATE PARK (LTNSP)

By Dale Conner



Hello from Tahoe. Winter is just around the corner now as our first snow flurries have caused a mass exodus of the executive yachts down the mountain to warmer climates. The park has remained busy hosting events like the Big Blue Adventure Race, the Nissan Xterra race, the Trails and Tails race, the Ultra Marathon, and the Trans-Tahoe Relay Invitational. The annual firewood

sale keeps getting more and more popular, especially with the rising costs of commercially bought wood. **Jay Howard, Bill Champion, Todd Anderson, Dawn Swan, and Peter Maholland** (new EIP ranger) helped make this year's sale another success with more than 100 satisfied customers.

We would like to welcome **Peter** as the newest staff member at LTNSP. He brings a lot of experience to the park with more than 13 years working with the California Tahoe Conservancy and a B.S. degree in conservation biology from the University of Nevada, Reno. Just as importantly, he's also a likeable person who should fit in well with our team. Peter lives in Dayton with his wife and family.

We are working on trying to fine-tune our operation at the new visitor center/gift shop. The park has received a lot of much-appreciated encouragement and support from NSPCA. **Dale Conner** recently took a trip down to the Las Vegas Region for some training in the ways of all things NSPCA. Thank you to **Jim Hammons, Jennifer Finlen** and the NSPCA sales staff at Valley of Fire, especially **Nicole Stapledon**, for their time and effort in hosting and training Dale. Thanks also to **Rick Keller**

at Spring Mountain Ranch for his additional assistance and for giving Dale a place to stay while in Las Vegas.

The bears we had visiting the park all summer have made themselves fairly scarce recently. They still occasionally stop by for a snack and to say hi, but not on an everyday basis anymore. If you want to meet our bears, tune in to the **National Geographic Channel** for their special feature on bears at LTNSP. **Jay Howard** and seasonal Park Tech **Tyson Reed** should play prominent roles in the ongoing series that started this November.



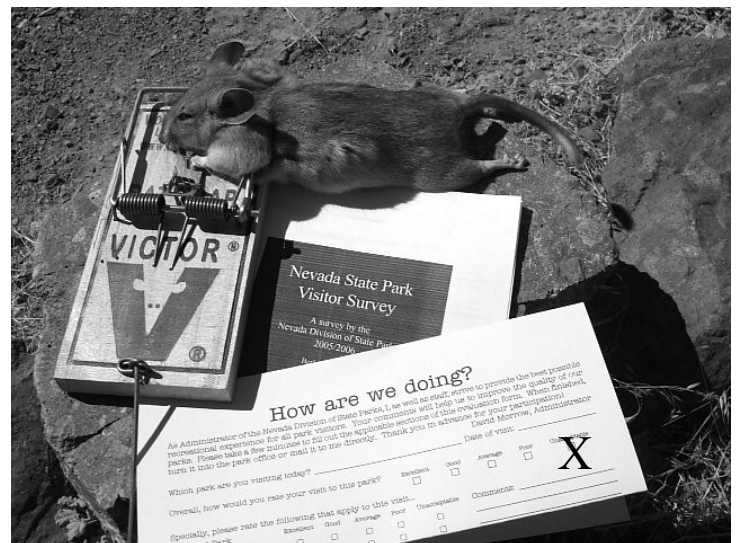
Good Morning America filmed a segment of their program at Sand Harbor. The story featured Lake Tahoe as one of the prime travel destinations in the U.S. **Dale Conner** and former Regional Manager **Mark Kimbrough** were interviewed on the show.

The LTNSP maintenance staff has been plugging away despite being short staffed recently. **Kurt Krause** badly injured his finger, and it looks like he will be out of commission for six weeks or more. We wish him a speedy recovery. **Casey Fromm's** season recently ended, leaving **Joe Fontaine** and **Mike Shipman** to make sure our park runs smoothly.

FALLON REGION

BERLIN-ICHTHYOSAUR STATE PARK

By Mike Dinauer



Park staff throughout the state spent a busy summer entertaining visitors and soliciting feedback through various surveys. Most visitors were very satisfied with their experience but we did encounter one disgruntled two pound individual who for some reason found his experience at Berlin Ichthyosaur State Park unacceptable. This was noted on his survey.

FALLON REGION

LAHONTAN STATE RECREATION AREA*By Rob Holley*

After losing **Anne-Marie Borgerding** to the Carson City Sheriff's Office in April of this year, Park Supervisor, **Rob Holley**, and Ranger III, **Tony Beauregard**, were left to train Rangers **Mark Fox** and **James Hunting** in the intricacies of summer time at Lahontan. Park Ranger **Myron Jeffs** came on board in August, and will be overseeing the Carson River Delta/Backwaters Unit. He was able to accompany the Law Enforcement (LE) staff over the Labor Day weekend, acquiring some valuable perspective before attending the P.O.S.T. Academy in January. He'll join us in the 2007 season as the 5th commissioned officer (first time since 2000 to have full LE staff).

With Labor Day behind us, we've all been revitalized with a full night of sleep, uninterrupted days off, and the quiet splendor of autumn on the Carson River system. The shorter days and frosty mornings have the cottonwoods radiating electric hues of yellow and green. The restful calls of Canadian geese and coyotes have replaced the drone of motor boats and the midnight repetitions of the Highwaymen. Staff has worked diligently on trail design, hazard tree removal, fence repair, weed control, firewood cutting, and general park duties. Don't be fooled into thinking staff here are only cops with ranger badges. All of us get our hands dirty with the same year-around "Ranger" work done in other parks, making major improvements in summer routines (better results with fewer seasonal staff and supplies), fee collection and accounting, office administration, natural resource management and recreation development – in addition to 24/7 responsibilities that come with being LE officers.



This season's law enforcement experiences were typically unique and sometimes amusing. With summer-like weather arriving in early May, Lahontan officers began encountering criminal miscreants in need of direction. Some were the standard domestic battery, firearms, fights, and controlled substance jerks found in any jurisdiction, but interspersed were the once-in-a-career encounters found "only at Lahontan."

In early May (at about 4 in the morning), rangers **Hunting** and **Holley** encountered a group of noisy and intoxicated young people. While securing the safety of the most inebriated individuals and restoring peace to the beach, **Holley** overheard one of the juveniles speaking in a hushed tone to his friend, "Iay atehay thorityaubay..." **Holley** calmly whispered back that at one time he'd hated authority as well (*not exactly true*), and the young man should develop his linguistic skills beyond pig Latin. Over Memorial Day, we were dispatched because a snowmobile was "tearing up the beach." Ranger **Fox** located the tracks, but the suspect had apparently not found enough snow for his liking – gone on arrival. In June, Ranger **Holley**

was called out to search for a 12-year-old driver. He spied the young lad and his buddy playing on the beach, hanging with some young ladies. Ranger **Holley** was dispatched to a more serious call and had to leave. The following morning, Holley spotted the tricked red 2005 Chevy in the camp of a reported medical emergency. While medics examined the male patient (the father), **Holley** interrogated the 12-year-old (mother present), who admitted to driving his truck the previous night. After declining medical treatment, the irresponsible father was cited for allowing his boy to drive – he was not a "happy camper."

In August, we encountered a hostile young man whose size, demeanor and salivary function was grossly Shrek-like (but this kid sported a beard). After three 40 oz. beers and half of a bottle of Vodka (stolen), he had difficulty understanding right from wrong and had to be taken home to mama (strapped to an ambulance gurney for his safety and ours). Over Labor Day, a group of well-mannered young people cleared their picnic table for us while we administered breath alcohol tests and issued six Minor in Possession of Alcohol citations (they offered us lasagna, as well).

That same weekend we sent a teenage boy out on Care Flight for severe back injuries, only to arrest the same kid on Monday for fighting in public and resisting an officer. The previous week, a metal sculptor from Arizona (on his way to Burning Man in a zebra-striped '72 Ford "high boy") beat the tar out of a Pit Bull that was attacking his leashed Corgi-cross. After he pummeled the Pit Bull into submission, he attempted to find its owner. Unable to find the owner, the fellow locked the dog in a bathroom and quickly fabricated an attractive custom sign bearing the warning "Pit Bull Inside." Two weeks later, another fellow (returning from Burning Man in his alkali-covered van) had decided to camp in the North Shore Marina parking lot. When contacted by Ranger **Hunting**, the fellow went ballistic and was nearly subdued and arrested. After calming down, he apologized to Ranger Hunting and explained, at the point of tears, that he was upset because Ranger Hunting had interrupted him while "mourning the death of Steve Irwin (the Crocodile Hunter)." Only at Lahontan.

Thankfully, we all stayed safe and put the bad guys in jail so the multitudes of good citizens who frequent Lahontan could enjoy the rest of their visit. "Eway antcay aitway orfay extnay ummersay!"

Lahontan has new VIPs, **Darrel Ray** and **Lane Bruce Hunting**. That's right, the Hunting family had twins. One was 7 lbs, 20" long and the other identical twin brother was only 5 lbs. 3oz., 18" long. What a wonderful addition for the Hunting family! We hope **James** and his wife are up to the task and their other two boys (**Johnny & Mathew**) and daughter (**Frances**) will help out.

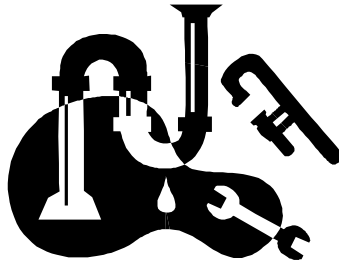


FALLON REGION

RYE PATCH STATE RECREATION AREA*By Paul Schmidt***[Editor (Joy Elwood) missed this article for summer.]**

All I can say is hot, very hot and sweltering! It's a good thing we got lots of water otherwise sweltering would be followed by the word miserable! Other than the heat, it's been a great summer. What can I say – great staff, good water levels, good fishing and we got our John Deere tractor. **Jim** has been busy on the tractor and weed spraying. **Bert** has been building/installing kiosks and completing repairs. **Mark**, **Jessica** and **Colleen** have been busy painting, welding, mowing and a hundred other things.

As of now, it looks as though our maintenance guys (**Scott** and **Charlie**) have finally diagnosed our pressure problem at the lower restroom. This has been an ongoing problem for over three years. They plan on installing a new line where the suspected problem is. In the meantime, we have been using sani-huts to provide service.



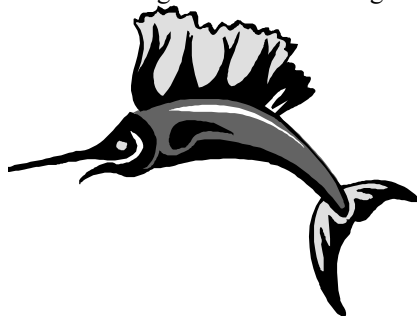
Two of our interpretive kiosks are now installed, one at the entrance and one at the beginning of the Day Use Nature Trail. Thank you **Caryn Hunt DeCarlo** of the Bureau of Reclamation. We also have Caryn to thank for the John Deere tractor – believe me, it's a great asset to the park. **Bert Durance** is building a third kiosk, which will house our new park map.

Jim Hawkins holds the local record walleye so far this year at 12 lbs. 7 ounces. Within two days he also caught two 10-pound, two 8-pound and a few smaller walleye. I fish the same spot and can't even catch a 5-pound walleye! Well, the season isn't over yet!

Bureau of Land Management was in last week and mowed us a firebreak along the west side of the park. With everything burning all around us, I figured it couldn't hurt to ask. Until the fall edition, pray for rain with NO lightning!

And Now For the Fall Edition

Newsflash: "Ranger Hooks Bride and 234 lb. Marlin." How does Ranger **Hawkins** manage to do it? Yes, **Jim** hooked a



good one—wife I mean. **Jim** and **Gena** got married August 5th, followed by a honeymoon to Hawaii in September. Jim caught a 234 lb. Marlin and **Gena** caught a 60 lb. Ono on the same excursion, but a tiger shark got about half of it before she got it in.

Burning Woman and the Wild Bunch motorcycle events went on without a hitch this year. The effigy for this year's Burning Woman event was a three headed Dixie Chick rendition. All went up in flames, without the need for alcohol as a fire starter, except by event participants!

Maintenance worker **Bert Durance** trapped many a pocket gopher this year, but was outfoxed (or outgophered) by one sly rodent on numerous occasions. We suspect the Geomyidae carries a diploma.

Visitation is winding down here at the park, but projects are winding up. **NDOT** came in and chip sealed all the park roads and **Pershing County Water District** brought in about 25 loads of gravel for our parking lots. I've been on the tractor moving the gravel and **Jim** has been running irrigation hose, wrapping trees and spraying weeds. Plans for fall include refinishing tables, tree planting and trimming, groundwork, burning and a host of other projects. We'll be busy!

Update on the waterline. The problem with our waterline was resolved by Scott, Charlie and Dave. It appears some moron decided to run a 2" line to a 3/4" line, and then back to a 2" line. Gee, I wonder why we didn't have any water pressure!

SOUTH FORK STATE RECREATION AREA*By Jim Wilkinson*

Here we are in November. The South Fork staff is doing fine. We made it through another year. Our fee collections and visitation showed good increases. A synopsis of how the park and staff fared showed we are a resilient bunch. There is of course plenty of room for improvement.

In past years, the number one gripe among visitors was the condition of our non-paved access roads. The possession of and use of the John Deere grader addressed this. We were able to maintain our access roads and show visitors we cared about their motor homes and vehicles. The number one compliment was the condition and cleanliness of our facilities. I think we maintained this.

The word has finally gotten out that we do not control the capacity of the reservoir. The Division of Water Resources (DWR) controls the input and output of the reservoir. Past difficulties were moot due to an above-average year of precipitation. We have an excellent working relationship with the DWR and we hope to continue this.

There was an episode of the upcoming new reality show called **BullRun** taped out at South Fork. I believe this show centers around contestants driving in exotic sports cars from Canada to Mexico. To drop a name, I believe **Mario Andretti** is one of the contestants. **Bob Mergell** was kind enough to volunteer and handle all of the paperwork and duties. As an outsider, I was amazed at all the support staff and stuff a show like these needs. There were staff, equipment and vehicles of all shapes and sizes running around here. Boom trucks, U-haul trucks, semis, you name it. We didn't hear any feedback, so I am going to assume the park met the needs of what they required. Here's to possibly seeing South Fork featured when this show is produced. We hope you have a good winter.

FALLON REGION (Con't)

WILD HORSE STATE RECREATION AREA*By Andrew Bass*

A somewhat controversial way of collecting more revenue is to lower a fee. That is exactly what has been done at Wild Horse. The results? This year will set a new-all time high for revenue! With camping fees lowered \$2, more people are staying in the park, staying longer, and frequently paying for more days after initial payments. With high gas prices keeping many seniors at home, there has still been an increase in camping. This trend should continue, fueled by the increasing population of Elko, extensive stocking of fish by Wildlife, and a surprising number of first time visitors from outside the area. They all loved their stay and want to return of course.



Meanwhile, it's time to prep for winter. November 1 arrived with a temperature of one degree (below zero). This has started icing up the coves on the lake. Some say this is an El Niño year, bringing a mild winter. Hunters say the fat is the thickest they've ever seen on the deer. I've also notice wasp nests high in the trees (a wood cutting trip that got a little exciting). So only time will tell how extensive the winter will be. Of course the ice fishing will be great and I'll be plowing snow either way.

Don't forget to stop in and say hi next time your'e in the neighborhood. The snowmobile will be gassed and ready to go.

PANACA REGION

PANACA REGION HEAQUARTERS*By Kim & Linda Lee*

We thank you all for your kind words and deeds during our family's time of sadness. The cards, the flowers, the calls, the generous financial gifts for **Trisha** and the kids were very comforting and much appreciated.

We thank you from the depths of our hearts. **Trisha** and **Eric** loved the parks; they would tease me about being paid for having such a fun job with such fun people around me. **Eric** would say, "You just get up and go play with your friends all day and get paid for it, what a deal." His family visited each and every one of the Panaca Region parks, they fished and camped at Echo & Spring Valley, they attended the Star Gazers events at Cathedral Gorge and spent hours climbing in all the caves, they drove to Ely one weekend to take **Logan**, **Alexia** and **Madelyn** to see Cave Lake and the Ward Ovens.



The picture above was taken in the summer of 2005 at Kershaw/Ryan during one of many visits to **Mr. Woods's** park. They loved the schoolhouse at Elgin; **Logan** wanted to know if he could go to school there when he got older. And how they love to visit **Barbara** at the Visitor Center, (especially when Grampa had his wallet handy). We thank you again for all your love and concern. Without friends and family, we could not have endured this loss. Thank You All!

CATHEDRAL GORGE STATE PARK, VISITOR CENTER & BEAVER DAM STATE PARK*By Barbara Rohde*

The Second Annual Dutch Oven Cook-off was held Saturday, September 9; we decided to try it at a cooler time of year – and it certainly was cooler. It actually rained about the time the chefs were putting their pots on the coals, though not enough to deter the cooking. Around 95 people came to watch and especially to taste-test the products of the 11 chefs (including 5 under the age of 18). **Kim Lee**, **Jim Cole** and **Cody Tingey** fabricated some awesome Dutch Oven cooking tables from scrap metal removed from the Echo Canyon restroom roofing; these tables provided a heat-resistant surface to cook on and serve from, with a shelf underneath for the chef's supplies. We had purchased two walled shelters from the donations account after borrowing some last year, and we were very grateful to have those when the rain came down. Just as the last prizes were handed out and people were starting to disperse, the rain started again. Someone "up there" must like us to have provided such great weather during the program itself.

Next year, we hope to add a category for kids' cooking so that the kids don't have to compete against adults with their meals. Again, we had great food and great music provided by **Jim Morgan**, the "Wolfman" of Caliente (who does a DJ thing besides volunteering at the Visitor Center, the Caliente Youth Center, and driving Meals on Wheels when he is needed). Ranger Technician **Nevin Birkmier** and Camp Host **Marvin Haglund** provided invaluable service in setting up the area, and selling the raffle tickets. **Nevin's** season ends October 15, and we will miss her! She will use the experience of the cook-off to help her husband conduct the Panaca Fire Dept.'s annual Chili Cook-off and fund-raiser.

PANACA REGION

CATHEDRAL GORGE STATE PARK, VISITOR CENTER & BEAVER DAM STATE PARK

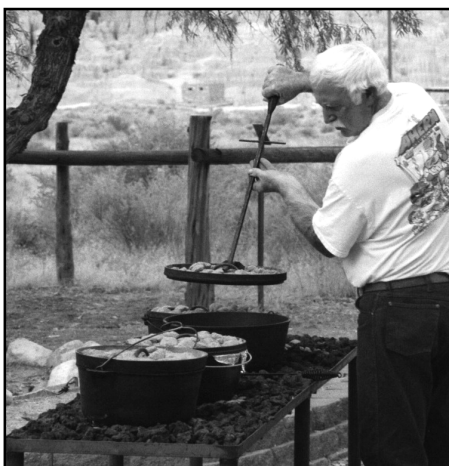
The Las Vegas Astronomical Society held their 20th Annual Star Party at the Gorge on Sept. 22-23. Many of the long-time members have moved away, or had other family events going on (with their children now grown into teenagers), so it wasn't as crowded as in years past. One of the club's newest members, **Rob Lambert**, gave the introductory talk. He was a Boy Scout leader who attended last year's Star Party, and got hooked immediately on amateur astronomy. This is what it is all about: introducing people to the wonders of our universe, and instilling a life-long interest in astronomy!

Cody was given the opportunity to attend the National Recreation & Parks Association conference in Seattle, Washington, in mid-October. I am sure he will come back enthused and with some new ideas for improving our State Parks. A camper on **Barbara's** last Moonlight Hike of the season mentioned she had not been to the park in eight years, and she was just amazed at all the improvements! Now, if we could just win the "Top Park" in Nevada Magazine's reader survey...

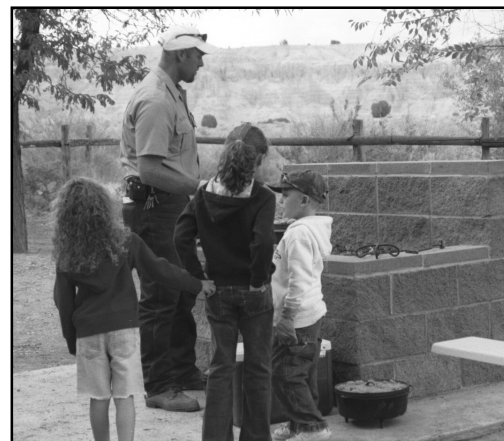
A consultant was chosen to write the Beaver Dam Master Plan, and **Cody Tingey** is looking forward to meeting with the consultant as they examine the possibilities of Beaver Dam.

Steve Davy left us right after Labor Day weekend for a job at the Caliente Youth Center; **Shaylen Budreau** will be joining the Cathedral Gorge/Beaver Dam staff in mid-October. He was assigned to Beaver Dam on paper, but has been working at Kershaw-Ryan, helping **Phares Woods** get Elgin Schoolhouse going this summer. **Shaylen, Cody**, and **Kim** went out to Beaver Dam the first part of October to get an idea of the maintenance needs following some heavy rains on the 5-6th. The park was in fall colors when they went on the 4th. By the 7th, the rain felled the leaves off most of the trees. Oh well, it was pretty while it lasted.

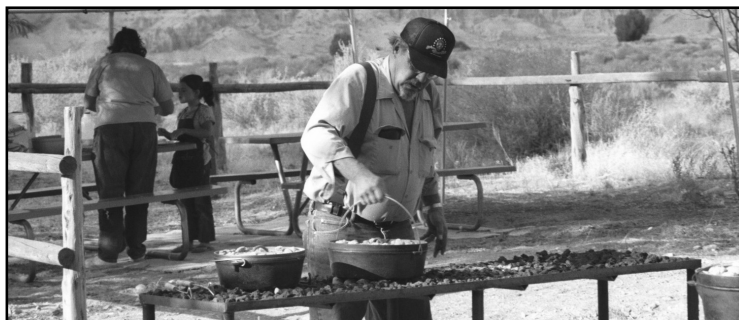
If you're over this way this fall, stop by the Visitor Center to see some of the great gift items our consignment artists have been bringing in. For the third quarter NSPCA report, I noted the consignment sale totals equaled about 60% as much as regular sales. We have eight consignment artists now: **Timothy Johnson** (who does carved rock glyphs), **Tom DeVuono's** flint-knapped items, the **Wards** with stained glass and scroll-sawn wood items (**Korla** did the State Parks logo stained glass hanging for the Park Academy in January), **Kathie Clinesmith's** gourd items, **Edie Boren's** pine cone sculptures, Indian Jewelry & pottery from a Navajo family, and wildlife earrings made by **Joan Day** (who is writing the Trails Guide booklet for Panaca Region parks).

**THE DUTCH OVEN PHOTO ALBUM**

Cody Tingey with two of the youngest cooks (his own children) and their cousin.



Merlin Rohde (Barb's husband) with his two entries. These are the Dutch Oven tables that **Jim Cole, Kim Lee** and **Cody** welded together from the old Echo Canyon roofing.



Kim Lee "chatting up" one of the campers.



Nevin (at right) and **Barbara Ramsey** (one of our longtime campers) at the prize tent.



Ken Adams (**Susie's** husband) checking his entry. (Did I mention that we had to cajole our families into entering so we would have enough cooks?!!)

CATHEDRAL GORGE STATE PARK, VISITOR CENTER & BEAVER DAM STATE PARK (cont.)



Two of the **Ahlstrom** kids with their entries. The **Ahlstroms** entered last year, also; this year they cooked 4 items, won prizes for each, plus won the grand raffle prize, a Camp Chef propane stove, pictured here.



Shaylen and **Kim Lee** (on his day off) exploring the Beaver Dam trail through the "white rocks." Are you going to call this the Tuff Trail, Cody?



New VIP at Panaca Region Headquarters, **Noah Matthew Elmer**. He is the son of **Matt** and **Amy Elmer** and was 9 lbs. 15 oz. and 21 1/2" long. Congratulations to the Elmer family.

CAVE LAKE STATE PARK

By Steve Gray

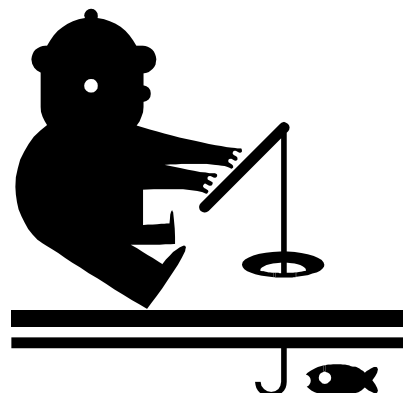
We have been busy this fall with hunters and getting our projects done before the snow falls. We paved 80% of the roads and parking areas around the lake which really makes the park look manicured. Our shop refurbishment is coming along nicely. **Terry Ivins** has really put his personal touch on the building making it very classy. We could not have gotten this done without his help and tools.



The **Fire and Ice Show** is taking up shape this year, with grants totaling \$10,000. I just hope the ice forms and the snow falls. The calls are starting to come in and we haven't even started advertising. This is positive and stressful at the same time. We received three twenty-man tents that we are going to set up on the ice with woodstoves inside for people who want to experience winter, but not the cold.

Another 4.5 miles of trail have been completed with the help of Forest Service. You can now hike/bike on trails that connect, totaling nine miles around Cave Lake. It offers great views and accesses great country for wildlife viewing. We will need to construct a new bridge across Steptoe Creek.

No big browns have been caught lately, but the spawn is starting. We lowered the lake this fall to an all time low to re-create the channel going in the lake. This channel is what the German Browns need to go up stream to spawn. It has worked great. I saw more than 200 fish spawning more than 2 miles above the lake with fish just short of three pounds. We are going to plan on doing this every year. I hope I can catch a big one. If anyone wants to jump through the ice this winter just let **Terry** and I know and we will cut the hole for you. I hope everyone has a great winter!!!



PANACA REGION (Cont.)

SPRING VALLEY STATE PARKS

By Erin Neat

With great reluctance we now realize the cold and snow are here. Our big game seasons are passing, our leaves are falling, and our only remaining seasonal has left. Spring Valley would like to thank **Corry McBride** for his vigilance and endurance through and beyond Labor Day – it may be colder and slower, but routine services are always vital here, whether in snow or sunshine.

Recently, many improvements have been made to our beloved and historic headquarters: the 7L Ranch. Our office, once a bunkhouse for ranch hands, is hardly recognizable with new paint, flooring, and fixtures. **Pete Gill** is very impressed; he swears this is one office he will keep organized. Our shop, pump house and storage building have also received similar face-lifts; none would see them as former barns or chicken coops. Fortunately enough, the outhouse still exudes its particular rustic charm. None of these improvements would be possible without the expertise of one **Lee Hiatt**, and the valuable skills of **Frank Cheeny** and crew. Your good work shows!

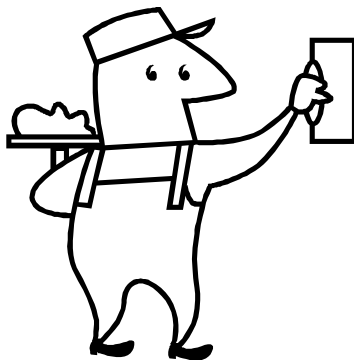
Although our flood of visitors will soon be reduced to a trickle, we will stay busy: Spring Valley will see to that. Stay warm, stay busy...

WARD CHARCOAL OVENS STATE PARK

By Mike Ray

It seems like I was just writing an article at the end of the summer season, and here it is, the end of another summer season. They say time flies when you're having fun. If that is true, I must be having the time of my life.

When I became a park ranger, I really had no idea what I was in for. I have developed a few skills I didn't know I could or even wanted to. With the encouragement (and pushing) of Park Supervisor, **Steve Gray**, I have learned many things over the last couple of years. One of the things I have learned is to tape and texture drywall. Although I am EXTREMELY happy I don't have to do drywall full time, I am sure glad I learned how. I would like to thank Maintenance Repair Specialist **Terry Ivins** for his patience in teaching me and assisting me with the drywall and other maintenance tasks. **Terry** is truly an asset to the parks and the division. I don't know what we would do without him.



This fall the **Ely Conservation Camp** has been providing a lot of assistance to Ward. **NDF Crew 2712**, along with Crew Chief **Dan Morgan**, have provided many hours of labor in the park and have accomplished a lot over the last two months.

They have done extensive trail maintenance and reconstruction, campground beautification and improvements and are currently assisting with the removal of trees that shade the residence/campground road. The removal of the trees shading the road will allow the road to thaw out and dry faster after winter storms. This crew seems to have taken a little ownership in the projects they do for the park. Not only do they do the work, but do it with great skill and pride. Thank you, NDF Crew 2712.

Until next time, keep your powder dry, and if you are in Ely make the drive to Cave Lake and check out the cedar doors on the shop!!! I bet you'll wish you had doors like those.

LAS VEGAS REGION

LAS VEGAS REGION HEADQUARTERS

By Terry Hansen

A local Toyota dealer broke down/stranded at an undisclosed State Park in the Las Vegas Region. He was offered a ride in the State Park vehicle, but declined in the visitor assist;



however he felt bad enough to offer his help and assistance. Out of the blue there were three new FJ Cruisers in the region headquarters parking lot for us to put into our fleet and to assure the success of future rescues. Two were immediately put into park service with official decals and the third is being used for incognito missions and lunch runs (heh, heh).

VALLEY OF FIRE STATE PARK

By Paul Michalec

Well we survived the Valley of Fire cookfest. Yea you know the cookfest? You haven't heard of it? It's really a fun event and every one should try it; it is where all the park staff grins, bares, and turns vermillion while managing the park during the intense heat of the summer months. With fall in full swing, our visitation is continuing to increase, and we are noticing quite a few snow birds showing up as they are migrating through. These birds brought us two packages with them. Yes, the stork dropped two new rangers out of the sky in September. They are Park Ranger **Brad Larkin** and Park Ranger **Kevin Hay**.

Brad and **Kevin** arrived September 11 just in time to help out on a search and rescue call at Mouse's Tank. What an exciting first day for them. **Brad** is no stranger to Nevada State Parks. He comes to us from Fernley, where he worked three seasons as a seasonal at Lahontan. While he worked for Parks he also attended UNR, graduating with a degree in biology. **Kevin** comes all the way from West Palm Beach, Florida, where he lived most of his life. He graduated from Florida State University in Tallahassee with a degree in criminology. Welcome to Valley of Fire **Brad** and **Kevin**!

Park Supervisor **Jim Hammons** is excited about the planning developments for our new campground extension. This campground will be connected to Atlatl Rock campground and will provide electrical hookups for our RV campers. The shower buildings have been renovated and he has been crunching numbers for other park improvement projects.

Park Ranger III **Jennifer Finlen** has also been very busy working with numerous projects this fall. On October 28 she hosted the Third Annual Halloween Jubilee. This is the staff's second busiest day of the year and the event seems to be getting more popular each year. Jenny spent countless hours picking just the right toys, giveaways, craft projects, games, decorations, and acquiring donations from local businesses in Moapa Valley. This was really an exciting event and the children and parents enjoyed it. This is a daunting event that takes a lot of time and planning and her hard work really paid off. It was a huge success.



Administrative Assistant **Julie Tanner** has been diligently working on a gauntlet of tasks that have improved the efficiency of many park operations, whether it's making sure the film companies and wedding companies are abiding by the state policies, or giving our visitors information at the visitor center. She has been a huge help to all of us and we appreciate all her long hours and work she puts in for the park. Thank you, **Julie!**

Maintenance staff's **Weston Shakespeare** and **Jim Shields** have also been busy this fall. **Weston** and **Jim** have been spending a lot of time on park improvement bids and contracts for numerous projects such as new roofs for the restrooms in Campground A, and residence housing plans. They have also been busy making sure there are plenty of Boy Scout projects available for me to oversee. The most recently scheduled project was the West Entrance beautification project. **Weston** and **Jim** provided the Boy Scouts with all the contacts necessary to get decorative rocks and plants donated. The project really turned out nicely and was completed in just 6 hours. We always appreciate the efforts that the **Boy Scouts** and **Girl Scouts** and other youth groups do to improve the natural resources that this state provides. Thank you, Scouts!

We also have one new Park Aide, **Marsha Meissner**, who is originally from Idaho, where she was certified for teaching K-12. She now resides in Bunkerville just outside of Mesquite and makes the commute every day to help us out with running

the park. **Bonnie Scacco** and **Thomas Fitzsimmons** really appreciate the extra help. Welcome, Marsha.

We are also happy to have back for the fall season Park Aide **Stacey Alfonso** and Park Tech **Samantha Carter**, as this November is proving to be yet another busy season. Welcome back, Stacey and Samantha.

October rain reminded us again of that unique desert phenomenon, the flood, that occasional process where roads disappear and new riverbeds are created. We started our busy season by closing the most scenic portion of the park while roads are being repaired. This definitely put a crimp in filming car commercials.



Well, I have just received a radio call from **Jim**, stand by. Oh no there are four campers held hostage by a WILD TURKEY. The turkey who has a number of aliases and currently using the alias "TOM" is demanding the release of the other turkeys that are being deep fried this November. Any suggestions from anyone? Gobble Gobble Gobble from Valley of Fire!!!

STATE PARKS' VISITOR SURVEY REPORT CARD - PART II

By Joy Elwood

THE PARKS' SCORES - These results are based on a minimum return of 30 surveys for the year. So, some parks didn't make the list.

Highest amount of Excellent ratings: *(See, Barbara? You are "Top Park")*

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| 1—Cathedral Gorge | 6—Cave Lake |
| 2—Mormon Station | 7—Spring Valley |
| 3—Berlin-Ichthyosaur | 8—Lake Tahoe |
| 4—Valley of Fire | 9—Ft. Churchill |
| 5—Kershaw Ryan | 10—Beaver Dam |

Lowest amount of below average ratings:

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| 1—Beaver Dam | 6—Kershaw Ryan |
| 2—Berlin-Ichthyosaur | 7—Ft. Churchill |
| 3—Mormon Station | 8—South Fork |
| 4—Cathedral Gorge | 9—Cave Lake |
| 5—Valley of Fire | 10—Lahontan |

Top 10 activities enjoyed in our parks:

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1—Relaxing Outdoors | 6—Pleasure Driving |
| 2—Hiking/Walking | 7—Historic Sites |
| 3—Camping | 8—Fishing |
| 4—Picnicking | 9—Nature Study |
| 5—Photography | 10—Swimming |

PERSONNEL

By Anke Simpson

As our busy season is winding down, we would like to give recognition to those who have continued to work for State Parks over the years.

NEW PERMANENT EMPLOYEES

We also have one new employee. **Peter Maholland** started as the Conservation Staff Specialist I on the EIP Team in Carson City on 09/18/06.

David Mensing will be starting as Regional Manager of the Carson Region on 11/27/06. David is coming to us from New Mexico, where he worked at the Bureau of Land Management.

PARK SERVICE PLAQUES & CERTIFICATES FOR 2006

25 YEARS – Alan Conklin

20 YEARS – Jim Cole, Randy Moore, Phares Woods

15 YEARS – Kirsten Hettrick, Dave Pardew, Steve Santee

10 YEARS – Todd Anderson, Paul Schmidt

5 YEARS – Dale Conner, Kevin Griffiths



HALLOWEEN PARTY/CONTEST

By Alyce Cloutier

Others that participated, but are not in the group photo below, are **Allen** (came as a non-uniformed employee) and **Steve Silva** (came as a pilot).

Congratulations go to **Anke**, who had the most unique costume as a “deviled egg.” Anke’s prize was a plastic, blow up saxophone.



Devil's Egg



Return Service Requested

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